

The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held on March 26, 1973 with Chairman, William Press presiding.

After a quorum was declared present the minutes of the January meeting were circulated. On motion they were accepted after the following corrections were made:

On the discussion of a light at Harvey and Orleans Roads, Mr. Akutowicz stated the following should be added to clarify his statements. "The road is presently a burden to Arden with heavy traffic, noise and littering and a light will be a counter irritant which would tend to increase the nuisance, because speed up to the light, littering waiting for the light change and motor start up increases the noise factor."

A statement that the motion to support the establishment of the "Three Ardens' Vandalism Committee" proposed by Leon Tanzer was accepted was omitted from the minutes.

A motion was made and passed to suspend the order of business so that we can proceed with the election of the committees and officers of the Town Assembly.

Mr. Daniel Weiss took up the matter of using a voting machine with the Attorney General. He ruled that Arden would not have to conduct election of committees by a voting machine.

A motion was made and passed that the Secretary cast a ballot electing the following officers unanimously:

Chairman of the Town Assembly, William Press  
Advisory Committee Chairman, Aaron Hamburger  
Secretary of Town Assembly, Mary Morley  
Treasurer of Town Assembly, Rae Gerstine

Nominations were opened for all committees, but no nominations were made from the floor of the meeting.

Mr. Cy Liberman presented the financial report for the Trustees for the fiscal year. The report on motion was accepted and a copy is on file.

House Bill No 39-An act returning Arden School and its site to the Trustees of Arden was passed by the Legislature. It will be necessary to soon make a decision on the use of the building and we must get firm offers for rental. The Trustees would like a committee appointed to work with them on the use of the building.

Mr. Liberman reported that a survey has been completed and a lease drawn transferring to the Village of Arden 51 acres of land not including roads not leased. The County has been informed of the transfer or how it will reflect in the County Tax assessment.

The Assembly suggested that the Trustees explore possible uses of the Arden School and suggest short term leasing if possible until its uses are stabilized. Uses for the community should be considered.

At the present time Arden has received \$2,100. from the Revenue Sharing Act.

On motion the report of the Trustees was accepted.



No report from the Auditing Committee or Budget Committee at this meeting.

The Assessors will have two open meetings on May 24 and June 1 from 8 to 9 P. M.

Civic Committee report by Warren Hoffman. During the past two months there has been relatively little work done. A retainer fee was paid for snow removal, but thanks to the mild weather some money will be saved. Within the next few weeks, the contractor should be working around Arden fixing potholes and finishing the work remaining from last Fall. New work is being delayed until the town's budget situation is clarified. A 15HP mower for cutting the greens has been completed. Report accepted.

Community Planning report by Frank Akutowicz:

The Arden Book, a small handbook listing some traditions, rules of the Town Assembly and other pertinent information, is getting into shape. They expect to finish the writing this spring.

Robert Wynn, owner of the Craft Shop, is considering use of the front room overlooking the green as a place for displaying Arden memorabilia. This would also function as a central place for visitors to learn something about Arden.

The committee is formulating a position on the Hanby Trust property. The property is 97 acres of property from Naamans Creek to Naamans Road and Marsh Road to Darley Road. The present proposal is 5 acres now occupied by the Claymont Fire Company to be retained, 5 acres for a medical center, 30 acres for a Vocational Technical High School with intensive recreational facilities-tennis courts, etc. around it and 11 acres reserved for the Highland Stables. Twenty-seven acres along the creek will be a nature study center, an amphitheater for religious, but non-sectarian use,

The committee may have an open meeting on these suggestions, when they have details.

The Naaman's Creek project is resting quietly once again, because the Lancashire community group voted against the work. However, new efforts to revive it are already under way.

Mrs. Grimaldi suggested that the Community Planning Committee request that the Hanby Trust committee be approached to set aside land for a school for the exceptional child. She pointed out that there are vocational schools in the area, but no facilities for the handicapped child.

The report of the committee on motion was accepted.

The Safety Committee held two meeting since January to discuss a citizens patrol, dogs and actions to obtain installation of a traffic light on Harvey and Orleans Roads.

The idea of a citizen patrol was discussed with Windybush Civic Association, but it was felt that this type of patrol would not apply to Arden. It was thought that patrolling in automobiles might be tried around Halloween to see if vandalism may be more effectively deterred.



Problems with dogs in the Village have come to the attention of the committee. Dogs are not legally supposed to run loose anywhere in New Castle County. There have been several instances recently in which they have bitten adults and children or have been threatening them. In one case an investigation was undertaken and letter written to the owner. If residents have problems with dogs, the best action is to call the police or the SPCA.

The Town Assembly voted to request the Safety Committee to attempt to have a traffic light installed at the intersection of Orleans and Harvey Roads. The committee has been advised by Representative Daniel Weiss that our case would be promoted by obtaining petitions signed by residents and others who use the intersection. Petitions are available now and the committee requests that all present at the meeting sign one.

Those that have not signed up for Operation Identification are urged to do so.

Mr. Frank Starr read excerpts from law 1702 that defines the Delaware State Dog Laws. Section 5 states "In New Castle County, no dog shall be permitted to run at large at any time in any residential area, locality, or development, unless such dog is accompanied by the owner or custodian and under his reasonable control."

Suggested action on the dog problem will be taken up under new business.

The report of the committee on motion was accepted.

Cappy Millstein stated that at the time the film on Arden was being compiled, they received lots of material that was not used, but should be organized and put into the Arden Archives. She felt that we should continue to get material from those that have gathered information over the years.

The Three Ardens Committee are tuned into several points of action. The plan to use the Arden Club for the younger teens is working out very well.

Hugh Roberts has been studying the information on the Revenue Sharing Plan. He does not find the information has much of specific nature yet about ways of reporting expenditures, etc., but he is keeping in touch with all details.

Under Old Business William Press announced the appointment of the committee to meet with the Highway Department concerning Harvey Road. They are Cy Liberman, Temma Tanzer and Harold Monfort.

The two representatives from Arden on the Vandalism Committee are: William Bindloss and Michael Dougherty.

A Parliamentarian has not been appointed yet.

Under New Business the possibility of Ardencroft merging with Arden was discussed. Ardencroft expressed interest because they would like to be incorporated, but the Legislature is not incorporating small towns now. There would not be a change in Arden's Deed of Trust or Arden leases. The actual mechanism of this annexation has not been worked out.



Representative Daniel Weiss reported on his action on Arden's behalf on the school bill and the change in voting regulations. He agreed that Ardencroft probably could not be incorporated. He urged that everyone sign the petition on Harvey Road if they wanted a light, but he could not assure that the light would be installed because it would depend on the traffic flow in the area. He did say that the Municipal Street Aid Fund was in jeopardy, but he will keep us informed on the action taken.

A motion was made and passed to send a letter to Representative Weiss thanking him for all the action he had instituted for us.

The Delaware League of Local Government has been requesting that Arden join this group. They have been sending us minutes of their meetings and they have been discussing the Revenue Sharing Bill and the elimination from the State's budget a fund for the Municipal Street Aid Fund. At the last Advisory Committee meeting it was decided that we would ask William Press to represent us or find an alternate. It was thought that we should join this group.

A motion was made and passed that "the Town Assembly authorize membership for a two-year trial period in the Delaware League of Local Governments. The Chairman of the Town Assembly is to appoint a committee of three to alternate in attending the monthly meetings of the Delaware League of Local Governments."

A motion was made and passed that Revenue Sharing fund be used for road and administrative expenses.

The Registration Committee reported the result of the balloting for committee elections as follows:

Auditing Committee: William Bindloss, Elvira Grimaldi, Frank Heymann.  
 Civic Committee: Reese Davis, Warren Hoffman, Joan Colgan.  
 Community Planning Committee: Cy Liberman, Frank Akutowicz, Ethel Monfort  
 Registration Committee: Carolyn Liberman, Sally Hamburger, Kay Ringer  
 Safety Committee: Warren Hoffman, Shaul Gladstone, Thomas Colgan

A motion was made and passed: "A special School Property Committee of five members be appointed by the Chairman of the Town Assembly. This committee to have the following responsibilities:

- A. Assist the Trustees in negotiating rental agreements with groups interested in leasing the Arden school
- B. Coordinate the use of the Arden school building by Arden residents and organizations and establish procedures to govern such use.
- c. General supervision of the Arden school property including security, maintenance and construction.

Further, it is the intent of this motion, subject to change by future motions if any, that the status of this special committee be changed into a standing town committee by March, 1974 with members elected at the regular March Town Assembly."

F. Akutowicz suggested that the meetings should be open to all residents. A resolution was made and passed to extend to Mary Kummer and her family the sympathy of the Town Assembly at the death of Herman Kummer.



The Community Planning Committee are concerned that the plans for the Hanby Trust did not take into consideration how the use of the land would affect the drainage into Naaman's Creek. The following motion was made and passed: "The Weston plan for development of the Hanby Trust property overlooks the runoff retardation function of the existing unoccupied land.

Flooding in Naaman's Creek is now a major item of public expense, and the Weston plan will increase the flood surge in the creek.

We request that the Weston plan be revised to incorporate runoff retardation using soil, water, and landscape conservations methods as outlined in the Christiana Basin Study." This motion was sent to Mr. Bayard W. Allmond, Secretary of the Albert T. Hanby Trust.

William Morley suggested that we take political action to protest the possible elimination of the Municipal Street Aid Fund.

The following motion was made and passed:

"The Chairman of the Town Assembly appoint a committee to present the community's view point on the Municipal Street Aid Fund, and also follow up on any bill introduced in the Legislature to reduce the State's appropriation to the Municipal Street Aid Bill."

This committee should be informed that the town wants the Street Aid Fund continued.

The situation of dogs running at large has become a major problem. The following motion made by Harold Monfort passed:

"Be it resolved that it is the desire of the Town Assembly of Arden that the Safety Committee take positive action with or without the support of the victims in prosecuting violations of 1702 which is the Delaware State Dog Law, in order to prevent injury to residents of Arden.

Mr. John Bradshaw of Ardencroft said that the proposal that Ardencroft unite with Arden was to create a more powerful political, and social force as well as financial.

Under Good and Welfare Michael Curtis reported that Penny Colan and he were attending an institute in Fairhope and they were going to show the Arden movie prepared by Jerry Millstein. They asked contributions to defray the cost of the rental of the film.

On motion the meeting adjourned,

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Morley*  
Mary Morley  
Secretary